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(54) Title: INITIAL TEACHING ALPHABET FOR TEACHING PHONETICS

## Vowels

Vowels are letters that have sounds that let other letters be heard more clearly. Vowels in the English alphabet are *a, e, i, o, u* and sometimes *y*. Every word needs at least one vowel to be heard. Unfortunately, many letters, especially vowels, change their sound when they are around vowels. For now, just notice that vowels are often prompted.

### Wise Advice from Kids

ie z ie s u z

Don't sneeze in front of your mother when you're eating

crackers.  
k u z

Puppies still have bad breath even after eating a mint.

ea z ea u u

Never try to baptize a cat.

u ie oo ie u k

Don't pick on your sister when she's holding a baseball

bat.  
ea z ea u ay o

(57) Abstract: Systems and methods of teaching phonics represent words using ordinary spelling, and adjacently positioned clarifying symbols that consist primarily or entirely of the letters of a standard alphabet are used to assist in sounding out the words. Single ones of the vowel letters are preferably used to represent corresponding short vowel sounds, and combinations of the vowel letters are preferably used to represent long vowel sounds. The clarifying symbols preferably comprise an Initial Teaching Alphabet having 36 phonograms, which consists of standard letters of the English alphabet plus combinations of those letters. Various prompts are also contemplated, including underlining to highlight a plurality of the letters that form a blended sound, and coloration to show that certain letters are either silent or are sounded according to the adjacent phonetic symbol.